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DE RUEHDJ #0027/01 0121301
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FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9893
INFO RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 0201
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 0018
RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY 0006
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 0024
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 0084
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 0171
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0009
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY 0040
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0706
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY 0018
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 0048
RUEHMS/AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY 0058
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY 3407
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0012
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0994
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 0180
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 0517
RUEHYN/AMEMBASSY SANAA PRIORITY 1735
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0010
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY 0027
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0028
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0125
RUEHDS/USMISSION USAU ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 0008

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 000027

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR PM/PPA AND AF/E

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/11/2019

TAGS: [KCRM](#) [EWWT](#) [MOPS](#) [PBTS](#) [PHSA](#) [PTER](#) [SO](#) [DJ](#) [XA](#)

SUBJECT: DJIBOUTI SEEKS TO HOST SOMALI COUNTER-PIRACY
COORDINATION CENTER

REF: A. SECSTATE 1223

[1](#)B. DJIBOUTI 6 (NOTAL)

Classified By: DCM ERIC WONG. REASON: 1.4 (B) AND (D).

[1](#)1. (U) Per reftel, Post forwarded draft agenda and draft
communique for January 13-14 Contact Group on Somali Piracy
(CGSP) to MFA Director of Bilateral Affairs Mohamed Ali
Hassan on January 8. Ambassador subsequently provided Post's
French-language translation (emailed to AF/RSA and PM/PPA) to
Foreign Minister Mohamoud Ali Yousseuf on January 11. FM
Yousseuf confirms that Djibouti will participate in the CGSP,
represented by Djibouti's Ambassador to the United States and
UN PermRep, Amb. Roble Olhaye.

[1](#)2. (U) Welcoming the draft communique's reference to the
establishment of a Counter-Piracy Coordination Center ("Focus
Area 2") in the region, FM Yousseuf affirmed that the
Government of Djibouti was "ready to host it." He noted that
Djibouti would be the ideal location for such a center,
citing the presence already in Djibouti of international
anti-piracy contingents from the European Union and other
allies. (COMMENT. Due to the central economic role of its
extensive port infrastructure-- including refueling
facilities for transitting U.S. Navy vessels--Djibouti has
economic, as well as political, incentives to combat Somali
piracy, and will host an International Maritime Organization
(IMO) conference on January 26, to examine legal instruments
against piracy. Djibouti hosts more than 6,000 foreign
troops, including not only French naval, air force, marine,
army, and Foreign Legion bases, but also Camp Lemonnier--the
only U.S. military base in Africa, which serves as
headquarters to 2,500 U.S. and coalition military personnel

and contractors serving with AFRICOM's Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA). Djibouti already serves as the headquarters for numerous anti-piracy coalition forces, including the EU's Operation Atalanta, Spanish and French P-3 maritime reconnaissance aircraft, frigates from the UK and Netherlands, and other allied naval forces participating in CTF-150. END COMMENT.)

¶3. (C) FM Youssef's observations about Somalia--including TFG-ARS talks on political power-sharing to be held this week in Djibouti, as well as the option of having EASBRIG military forces deploy to Somalia in order to strengthen AMISOM--will be reported septel.

¶4. (C) Separately, French Ambassador Dominique deCherf reported to Ambassador that during consultations with France, the GODJ acknowledged that neighboring Yemen also seeks to host the Counter-Piracy Coordination Center (CPCC) (septel). Djibouti does not seek to campaign openly against Yemen, with which it has good relations, deCherf said, but rather hopes that the international community will "ask" Djibouti to host the CPCC.

¶5. (C) COMMENT. In view of the many counter-piracy activities already based out of Djibouti, it would seem to be a logical location and reliable partner for the planned Counter-Piracy Coordination Center. But, we recognize that here at post, we may not have a full understanding of the attributes the USG would like to see in the location of the CPCC. We would welcome further guidance as to how to react

to the Djiboutian offer to host it. END COMMENT.
SWAN